

**ABBAY ACADEMIES TRUST**  
**Executive Headteacher: Mrs S J Moore**

6<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following on from last week's guide which focussed on Roblox, I would like to inform you that we have been dealing with some serious E-Safety safeguarding issues within our Academy Trust.

These incidents have involved Snapchat, WhatsApp and Roblox. Although they took place out of school they have been disclosed to us in school. I have been in full communication with the police, the Lincolnshire Customer Care team and those children and families involved regarding these very serious incidents.

As an Academy Trust, we are aware that our children have spent more time online during the pandemic and therefore may be more vulnerable. We will be providing additional E-Safety lessons on top of our already robust E-Safety curriculum to help equip our children with the knowledge and strategies of how to keep safe online, especially in Key Stage 2. Over the next two weeks, Dan Hawbrook, E-Safety Officer from Lincolnshire Stay Safe Partnership will be delivering workshops to our Year 6 classes across the Trust. These workshops will enable our pupils to gain a greater awareness of social media, be better prepared for the transition to secondary school regarding social media and understand ways of safeguarding themselves from abuse and bullying online.

I would like to remind you about our weekly E-Safety Wake Up Wednesday guides, that can be found on our school website and Facebook pages. These provide support for a range of apps and devices.

Attached with this letter are guides for Snapchat and Roblox. These guides provide information for parents and carers covering a range of topics including inappropriate content, sexting and connecting with strangers. We would urge you to check your children's devices and ensure they do not have hidden online accounts. We would like to remind parents that apps such as Snapchat have an age restriction of 13+. This is to help safeguard young children. Although Roblox has a PEGI rating of 7+, privacy settings need to be in place to prevent children communicating with strangers. Please see attached guides and website for further advice and support.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

We are proud to hear the 'voice of the child' is being heard within our Academy Trust. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or questions.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S J Moore  
Executive Headteacher